

Amendments to the claims:

Please replace all prior versions and listings of the claims with the following amended claims:

- 1 1. (Previously Amended) A decorating medium for creating relief art on a substrate surface,  
2 the medium comprising:
  - 3 a. a water-based emulsion body;
  - 4 b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein,  
5 wherein the medium is cured and expanded when heated after application to the  
6 substrate surface; and
  - 7 c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of Hydroxyalkl-1 -aza- 3, 7-  
8 dioxabicyclo(3.3.0) octane, Tetrachlorisophthalonitrile 1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-  
9 one, and Phenoxyethanol.
- 1 2. (Original) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the water-based emulsion body  
2 comprises an acrylic binder and an acrylic thickener.
- 1 3. (Original) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic binder is selected from  
2 the group consisting of Vinyl Acetate-Ethylene Polymer, Vinyl Acetate-Vinyl Chloride-  
3 Ethylene Terpolymer and a Vinyl-Acrylic Polymer.
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic binder is in  
2 ~~the a~~ range of 25 to 95 percent of ~~the a~~ total weight of the decorating medium.
- 1 5. (Currently Amended) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the ~~thickener is pH~~  
2 ~~sensitive and that causes viscosity of the decorating medium to increase to~~ decorating  
3 medium has a viscosity in a range of 3,000 to 25,000 centipoise ~~and~~ in a pH range of 7.0  
4 to 9.0.
- 1 6. (Original) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic thickener is in a range  
2 of 0.5 to 10 % percent of the weight of the decorating medium.
- 1 7. (Previously Amended) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the preservative is in  
2 the range of 0.005 to 0.50 percent of total weight of the medium.

- 1      8.      (Canceled).
- 1      9.      (Original) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the expandable polymer is a  
2 Polyvinylidene Chloride polymer encapsulating an alkane blowing agent.
- 1      10.     (Original) The decorating medium of claim 9, wherein the blowing agent is Isobutane.
- 1      11.     (Previously Amended) A system for decorating surfaces, the system comprising:  
2      a.      a water based heat curable and expandable medium;  
3      b.      a water compatible decorating additive for mixing with the heat curable and  
4      expandable medium; and  
5      c.      a preservative selected from the group consisting of Hydroxyalkyl-1 -aza- 3, 7-  
6      dioxabicyclo(3.3.0) octane, Tetrachlorisophthalonitrile 1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-  
7      one, Phenoxyethanol.
- 1      12.     (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the decorating additive is a coloring agent  
2      selected from the group consisting of ink, dye, food coloring, acrylic paint, finger paint  
3      and tempera paint.
- 1      13.     (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the water based heat curable and expandable  
2      medium comprises:  
3      a.      an emulsion body comprising an acrylic binder and an acrylic thickener or a  
4      cellulosic thickener; and  
5      b.      an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein,  
6      wherein the medium is cured and expanded when heated to temperatures below  
7      140 Celsius.
- 1      14.     (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the acrylic binder is selected from the group  
2      consisting of Vinyl Acetate-Ethylene Polymer, Vinyl Acetate-Vinyl Chloride-Ethylene  
3      Terpolymer and Vinyl-Acrylic Polymer.
- 1      15.     (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the acrylic binder is in ~~the a~~ range  
2      of 25 to 95 percent of ~~the a~~ total weight of the medium.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the ~~thickener is pH sensitive and~~  
2 ~~that causes the viscosity of the decorating medium to increase to~~ decorating medium has a  
3 viscosity in a range of 3,000 to 25,000 centipoise and in a pH range of 7.0 to 9.0.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the acrylic thickener is in a range  
2 of 0.5 to 10 percent of ~~the~~ a weight of the medium.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the preservative is in ~~the~~ a range  
2 of 0.005 to 0.50 percent of ~~the~~ a total weight of the medium.

1 19. (Canceled).

1 20. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the expandable polymer is a Polyvinylidene  
2 Chloride polymer emulsulating an alkane blowing agent.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the alkane blowing agent is  
2 Isobutane.

1 Claims 22-39 (canceled).

1 40. (Currently Amended) A liquid decorating medium for creating relief art on a substrate  
2 surface, the liquid decorating medium comprising:  
3 a. a water-based emulsion body; and  
4 b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein,  
5 wherein the liquid decorating medium has a viscosity in a range of 3,000 to  
6 25,000 centipoise and is capable of being applied directly onto the substrate  
7 surface in a pattern and subsequently cured to form a relief of the pattern.

1 41. (Currently Amended) A system for decorating surfaces, the system comprising:  
2 a. a liquid decorating medium comprising:  
3 i. a water based heat curable and expandable medium; and  
4 ii. a water compatible decorating additive for mixing with the heat curable  
5 and expandable medium; and  
6 b. a liquid dispenser with a nozzle for dispensing the liquid decorating medium  
7 directly onto ~~the surfaces~~ a surface in a pattern from the nozzle.